This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Retinoid X receptor- α (RXRA; RXR α)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that analogs of the NSAID sulindac could help treat cancer. In cultured cancer cells, sulindac bound to tumor-associated RXR α and induced apoptosis. In nude mice with cancer, a sulindac analog with strong affinity for RXR α increased inhibition of tumor growth compared with the parent compound. Next steps include preclinical studies of the analog to determine its pharmacological profile. Cancer Prevention Pharmaceuticals LLC's difluoromethylornithine (DFMO)/sulindac is in Phase III testing to treat colorectal cancer. Eisai Co. Ltd. markets Targretin bexarotene, which binds RXR α , to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL). NRX4204, an RXR α agonist from Vitae Pharmaceuticals Inc. and NuRx Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat cancer.	Patent filed covering methods for identifying compounds targeting RXR α and composition of analogs; sulindac analogs available for licensing	Zhou, H. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online June 14, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2010.04.023 Contact: Xiao-Kun Zhang, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: xzhang@burnham.org
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